projects for generating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among doctors/clinics/law enforcing authorities and public at large. In December, 2000 the Department of Family Welfare has written letter to 82 Mother NGOs to direct the field NGOs to generate with in their jurisdiction, awareness and public opinion against the mall practice of selective abortion. The co-operation of the NGOs has been elicited in listing and enumerating, within their jurisdiction, the name and address of premises where the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) is being performed, with a view to detecting registered/unregistered clinics.

Eradication of evil of female foeticide

16. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite a number of laws on Statute Book, Government have not been successful in eradicating evil of "Female Foeticide" prevent in almost all parts of the country irrespective of communities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the problem of "Female Foeticide" was discussed at a Convention held in Delhi in June, 2001 which was *inter alia* attended by Union Ministers, leaders of different faiths in the country etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof and synopsis of views of participants on the subject; and

(e) the effective and result-oriented measures proposed to be taken to eradicate the evil?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) In order to curtail and eliminate sex selective female foeticides, the Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 (PNDT Act) banning disclosure of sex of foetus was enacted and has been in operation since 1st January, 1996 in all States and UTs except J&K. The responsibility for implementation of the Act rests largely with the States/Union Territories. Rules and Regulations under the Act have been framed and Appropriate Authorities have been appointed and

Advisory Committees have been set up to advise the Appropriate Authority in all States/UTs.

Despite the existence of this law, only a few stray cases of female foeticide have been reported, though the provisional figures of Census 2001 indicate that the sex ratio in 0—6 age group has come down drastically, particularly in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh and Delhi.

Several reasons are cited to explain the consistently low levels of sex ratio in 0—6 age group. Some of the important reasons commonly put forward are:—

- Neglect of the girl child resulting in their higher mortality at younger ages;
- High maternal mortality;
- Female infanticide;
- Male bias in enumeration of population;
- Female foeticide;

(c) and (d) Indian Medical Association in collaboration with UNICEF and National Commission for Women convened a Religious Leaders Meet against female foeticide/infanticide on 24th June, 2001 at New Delhi. The Meet was attended by many religious leaders, Government functionaries, doctors, social activists, representatives from media, NGO, educationists and legal experts. One aim of this meet was to seek a consensus amongst leaders of diverse religious who should simultaneously condemn female foeticide and call for its abolition.

All religious leaders out-rightly condemned the practice of female foeticide and gave a call to the citizens of India for shunning this inhuman practice. A copy of the "Oath" taken by religious leaders at the concluding session of the meeting is enclosed as statement.

(e) The States-UTs have been advised to mount effective awareness campaigns to make the public as well as the service providers aware of the provisions of the Act. The States/UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and non-governmental

organisations giving information or filing complaints of violation of provisions of the Act. The Appropriate Authorities appointed in all the States/UTs/Districts and sub-Districts have been sensitized in meetings organized by Government of India to take effective and prompt action against violators of the law.

Leading non-governmental organisations have been requested to take on projects to generate awareness about the provisions of the PNDT Act, among diverse stakeholders like doctors/clinics/law enforcing authorities and among the public at large.

Statement

Oath

We, the citizens of India and the representatives of various religions and sections of India hereby strongly condemn the inhuman and shameful practice of female foeticide.

Women have and would continue to have an extremely important place in our motherland. At this National Convention of religious leaders, we all take oath that we would use all resources at our command to propagate to the Indian masses to shun the atrocious act of female foeticide in our country.

We pledge out total commitment to the movement of abolishing Female Foeticide from the length and breadth of India and towards this cause we would leave no stone unturned.

Filling up the Post of Store Officer in the CGHS Homoeopathic Store Depot

17. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) why the post of Store Officer in the CGHS Homoeopathic Store Depot, Delhi could not be filled up till date;

(b) what are the hindrances being faced by Government in filling up the post; and

(c) whether responsibility needs to be fixed for tardy handling of the case by the persons concerned?

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